

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 21, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 21, 2004. Claims 1-26 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-26 stand rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

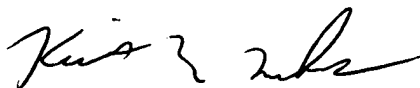
Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over *Nguyen et al.* (US 5,925,189) in view of *et al.* (US 6,267,820). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

For applications filed on or after November 29, 1999, US patents which are prior art under 35 USC § 102(e)/103 are disqualified as prior art against the claimed invention if the claimed invention "were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person".

Applicants respectfully submit herewith a statement of common ownership since the instant US patent application was filed on November 21, 2001, and *Nguyen et al.*, *Chen et al.*, and the instant application (Serial No. 09/991,317) were, at the time the latter invention was made, owned by and subject to obligation of assignment to Applied Materials, Inc. of Santa Clara, California. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith M. Tackett
Registration No. 32,008
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)